

Appl. No. 09/786,213  
Amdt. Dated April 1, 2004  
Reply to Final Office Action of January 8, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 81833.0027  
Customer No.: 26021

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A non-woven fabric of a three dimensional structure comprising, at least two types of fibers, which is produced by preliminary opening short fibers by a preliminary opening machine, and the fibers discharged from the opener roller being automatically directed by the air stream from the blower to a portion in the feed trunk where the level of the raw material is low, wherein the flow resistance of air is low in said portion, then accumulating short fibers so as to automatically stack them vertically to a portion of a low stacking level by using an air stream, and in which one of constituent fibers contains an ingredient having a melting point lower than that of other fibers and which is substantially bonded at portions of contact between each of the fibers and in which the fibers are arranged along random directions in at least two surfaces of the three dimensional structure, and which have a thickness of more than 5 mm.

14. (New) A non-woven fabric as defined claim 1, wherein the constituent fibers comprise core-sheath type heat fusible fibers and fibers of 1.5 denier or less.

15. (New) A method of producing a non-woven fabric, which comprises preliminary opening short fibers by a preliminary opening machine, then the fibers discharged from the opener roller being automatically directed by the air stream from the blower to a portion in the feed trunk where the level of the raw material is low, wherein the flow resistance of air is low in said portion, then accumulating

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short fibers so as to automatically stack them vertically to a portion of a low stacking level by using an air stream, and in which one of constituent fibers containing an ingredient having a melting point lower than that of other fibers and then substantially bonding at portions of contact between each of the fibers.

16. (New) A cushion material using a three dimensional structure of a non-woven fabric constituted with short fibers, which is produced by preliminary opening short fibers by a preliminary opening machine, and the fibers discharged from the opener roller being automatically directed by the air stream from the blower to a portion in the feed trunk where the level of the raw material is low, wherein the flow resistance of air is low in said portion, then accumulating short fibers so as to automatically stack them vertically to a portion of a low stacking level by using an air stream, and substantially bonded at portions of contact between each of the fibers of the three dimensional structure and in which the fibers constituting the three dimensional structure contain fibers with a fiber denier of 100 denier or more, and the fibers are arranged along random directions in at least two surfaces of the three dimensional structure.

17. (New) A filter using a three dimensional structure of non-woven fabric constituted with short fibers, which is produced by preliminary opening short fibers by a preliminary opening machine, and the fibers discharged from the opener roller being automatically directed by the air stream from the blower to a portion in the feed trunk where the level of the raw material is low, wherein the flow resistance of air is low in said portion, then accumulating short fibers so as to automatically stack them vertically to a portion of a low stacking level by using an air stream, and substantially bonded at portions of contact between each of the fibers of the three dimensional structure and in which the fibers constituting the three dimensional structure contain fibers with a fiber denier of 1000 denier or more, and the fibers

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are arranged along random directions in at least two surfaces of the three dimensional structure.

18. (New) A non-woven fabric structure constituted by bonding plural fiber lumps each comprising short fibers in which the fiber lumps comprise at least two kinds of fibers, one of constituent fibers contains an ingredient having a melting point lower than that of other fibers, the fiber lumps are substantially bonded at portions of contact between each of the fibers with the low melting ingredient and the short fibers constituting the fiber lump are arranged along random directions in at least two surfaces of the fiber lump.

19. (New) A non-woven fabric structure produced by preliminary opening short fibers by a preliminary fiber opening, then the fibers discharged from the opener roller being automatically directed by the air stream from the blower to a portion in the feed trunk where the level of the raw material is low, wherein the flow resistance of air is low in said portion, then accumulating short fibers so as to automatically stack them vertically to a portion of a low stacking level by using an air stream, then applying primary heat fusion by a heat fusing treatment to form a non-woven fabric, forming the non-woven fabric into fiber lumps at least smaller than the non-woven fabric, forming the fiber lumps into a desired shape and then applying secondary heat fusion by a heat fusing treatment.

20. (New) A non-woven fabric of a three dimensional structure comprising at least two kinds of fibers, which is produced by preliminary opening short fibers by a preliminary opening machine, and the fibers discharged from the opener roller being automatically directed by the air stream from the blower to a portion in the feed trunk where the level of the raw material is low, wherein the flow resistance of air is low in said portion, then accumulating short fibers so as to automatically

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stack them vertically to a portion of a low stacking level by using an air stream, in which one of the constituent fibers contains an ingredient having a lower melting point than that of other fibers, at least one of the fibers other than the fibers containing the low melting ingredient is coated with a silicon oil agent, they are substantially bonded at portions of contact between each of the fibers with the low melting ingredient, and the fibers are arranged along random directions at least in two surfaces of the three dimensional structural, and which have a thickness of more than 5 mm.